

What is claimed is:

1. A print ordering method used in a print ordering system comprising a server for receiving an order for a print of image data and a user terminal which is connected to the server via a network and used for placing the order for the print of the image data, the print ordering method comprising the steps of:

accepting transfer of the image data to the server and storing the image data in the server regardless of whether or not the order is placed at the time of the transfer of the image data; and

receiving the order for the print of the image data stored in the server after the image data are stored in the server in the case where the order was not placed at the time of the transfer of the image data.

2. A print ordering method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step of accepting and storing the image data is the step of accepting and storing the image data at the time the order is received if the order is placed at the time the image data are transferred.

3. A print ordering method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying on the user terminal a list of the image data stored in the server at the time the order for the print is placed if the order is not placed at the time the image data are transferred.

4. A print ordering method as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 3, further comprising the step of deleting the image data

from the server after a predetermined storage period has elapsed since the image data were put into storage.

5 5. A print ordering method as defined in Claim 4, further comprising the step of extending the storage period for the image data regarding which the order was placed.

6. A print ordering method as defined in Claim 4, further comprising the step of displaying the storage period on the user terminal.

10 7. A print ordering method as defined in Claim 5, further comprising the step of displaying the storage period on the user terminal.

15 8. A print ordering system comprising a server for receiving an order for a print of image data and a user terminal which is connected to the server via a network and used for placing the order for the print of the image data, wherein

the server stores the image data transferred thereto regardless of whether or not the order is placed at the time of transfer of the image data, and receives the order for the print regarding the image data stored therein after the image data are stored therein in the case where the order was not placed at the time of the transfer of the image data.

20 9. A print ordering system as defined in Claim 8, wherein the server stores the image data at the time the order is received by the server if the order is placed regarding the image data at the time the image data are transferred.

25 10. A print ordering system defined in Claim 8, wherein

the server displays on the user terminal a list of the image data stored therein at the time the order is placed if the order is not placed at the time the image data are transferred.

5 11. A print ordering system as defined in any one of Claims 8 and 10, wherein the server deletes the image data after a predetermined storage period has elapsed since the image data were put into storage in the server.

10 12. A print ordering system as defined in Claim 11, wherein the server extends the storage period of the image data regarding which the order was placed.

13. A print ordering system as defined in Claim 11, wherein the server displays the storage period on the user terminal.

15 14. A print ordering system as defined in Claim 12, wherein the server displays the storage period on the user terminal.

20 15. A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute a print ordering method used in a print ordering system, the print ordering system comprising a server for receiving an order for a print of image data and a user terminal which is connected to the server via a network and used for placing the order for the print of the image data, the program comprising the procedures of:

25 accepting transfer of the image data to the server and storing the image data in the server regardless of whether or not the order is placed at the time of the transfer of the image

data; and

receiving the order for the print of the image data stored in the server after the image data are stored in the server in the case where the order was not placed at the time of the transfer of the image data.

16. A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 15, wherein the procedure of accepting and storing the image data is the procedure of accepting and storing the image data at the time the order is received if the order is placed at the time the image data are transferred.

17. A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 15, the program further comprising the procedure of displaying on the user terminal a list of the image data stored in the server at the time the order for the print is placed if the order is not placed at the time the image data are transferred.

18. A computer-readable recording medium as defined in any one of Claims 15 to 17, the program further comprising the procedure of deleting the image data from the server after a predetermined storage period has elapsed since the image data were put into storage.

19. A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 18, the program further comprising the procedure of extending the storage period for the image data regarding which the order was placed.

20. A computer-readable recording medium as defined in

Claim 18, the program further comprising the procedure of displaying the storage period on the user terminal.

21. A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 19, the program further comprising the procedure of displaying the storage period on the user terminal.

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